

Hon. Helen Johns
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
11th Floor
77 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ontario,
M5S 1B3.

Dear Madame Minister;

I am writing to you to request fairness for Ontario's "contract" Meat Inspectors. I am an independent meat producer licensed by OMAF under the *Meat Inspection Act*. I want my products to meet the highest standards of quality and safety for the Ontario public.

I rely upon Ontario appointed meat inspectors to help me be a part of a safe and responsible food system. I want members of a stable, well-trained and knowledgeable workforce assigned to enforce uniform standards in my plant and all plants in Ontario. This ensures that food safety standards will be met.

The current turnover rate of the meat inspector workforce, at 32%, is shockingly high. New meat inspectors often are insufficiently trained to allow them to fully understand the operations of my plant. What matters the most is time on-the-job and that only comes with experience. Meat inspectors have not seen a wage increase in the past ten years, yet their duties and responsibilities have increased. No doubt, this undervaluing of their work is the major contributor to the high turn-over rate.

As minister you can take immediate action to ensure the food safety system is sound. If meat inspectors are treated as casual or temporary parts of the food safety system then the system begins to fall apart. You can improve their wages and working conditions and ensure that there is less turnover.

I am dedicated to fulfilling my part in the food safety system. I ask that you demonstrate the same commitment to Ontario's 'contract' meat inspectors by improving their wages and working conditions today.

I look forward to your response.

Yours truly,

Name:

Plant:

Address:

Date: